

The Chronicles of...



Fall 2004



Creative Workshops

Design et culture matérielle : développement communautaire et cultures autochtones (2003-2008)
(Design & Material Culture: Community Development and Native Cultures (2003-2008))

is a Community-University Research Alliance project (CURA) that focuses on Native societies, sustained development, culture and identity, and intercultural exchanges. It is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The project aims at fostering community development in Canada's First Nations.



Grégoire



Manigouche



A research project aimed at fostering community development in Canada's First Nations.

The project

"*Design et culture matérielle: développement communautaire et cultures autochtones 2003-2008*" (*Design & Material Culture: Community Development and Native Cultures 2003-2008*) is a Community-University Research Alliance project (CURA) that focuses on Native peoples, sustained development, culture and identity, and intercultural exchanges. It is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

The difficult, often dramatic situation that prevails in many Native communities calls for immediate, innovative actions towards sustainable development. Drawing from the conviction that creation is an instrumental key element of this process, the project aims at insuring positive gains for community partners, members of Native communities, scientific knowledge and society in general. Hence the project pursues three basic objectives to each of which specific means are attached:

Creative development

To promote artistic and cultural growth in each community through creative strategies for the development of individuals and of the community by means of various forms of art, namely the art of design, via the Creative Workshops.

Transfer to the community of responsibility for local development

To develop strategies aimed at creating a dynamic socio-economic context within each community through the use of ancestral resources as tools of development, as part of the "Territorial Memory" approach.

To valorize native cultures in the eye of No-Native people

through improved comprehension of these cultures, notably by means of an extensive circulation program (exhibits, catalogs, roundtables, publications, articles, etc.).

Staff overview

Natives make up most of the collaborators and partners associated with the project, (who also receive help from many members of the communities targeted by the project).

The partners

The *Université du Québec à Chicoutimi* (UQAC) is the home base for the project, in partnership with four Native-run cultural institutions, namely: the *Musée amérindien de Mashteuiatsh*, the *Musée des Abénakis* (Odanak), the *Maison de transmission de la culture innue*, *Shaputuan* in Uashat mak mani-utenam, and the First Nations Garden in Montreal. Service center specifically for Natives, the *Centre d'études amérindiennes* (UQAC), and the *University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology*.



Co-researcher



Myriam Clair

 Vancouver

Lac Ontario

Co-researcher



Elise Dubuc (Wujuan Rock-Volant)

 Montréal

Partners



Sylvie Paré



Nicole O'Bomsawin

 Odanak

The Workshops

Design as a Means of Transmitting Knowledge

The “*Design et culture matérielle*” project attempts to reactivate objects that bear witness of Native culture – but are generally kept in museums – so they can find a use as bearers of knowledge and identity and thus foster better self-knowledge and innovation among the communities involved.

It is through the teaching of design that we hope to achieve those goals. The exhibits are an essential part of our workshops as they enable the participants to initiate genuine discussions in their communities on the subject of tradition versus modernism with regards to the production of objects. They also provide participants with invaluable, complementary learning.

The project therefore attempts to draw relationships between the past and the present, and to enrich design practices through intercultural and intergenerational perspectives. We hope to facilitate the circulation and valorization of the material culture of traditional Native societies, as well as the actualization of their design practices. Our fields of intervention are pedagogy, creation and circulation, notably through such vehicles as the exhibits and publications.

**Artistic director -
Coordinator**



Pierre-André Vézina

Research Assistants



France Turf

Claudia Néron

Lise Enamad



Jean-François Vachon et Cathy Carlin

Sarah-Emmanuelle Brassard

Carl Marasse

Uashat mak Mani-Utenam

Craftworkers



Anouk St-Onge, Camilienne Phette, Caroline Michel, Ludienne Ambroise, Pauline St-Onge, Paul Bladomith, Pascal André, Louisa Rock, Laurette Grégoire, Jeanne-Mance Ambroise, Estelle Vachon

Collaborator



Thérèse Rock-Riard

Collaborators



Reginald Volant

Jean St-Onge

Betsiamite

Chicoutimi

**Co-researcher and
director, U.Q.A.C**



Elisabeth Kéme

Collaborator



Hugues de Vaine

Paris

The “*Design et culture matérielle*” workshops target various audiences, namely:

- 1 Native schools, to participate in personal and community self-valorization and build stronger cultural identity.
- 2 Non-Native primary schools, to familiarize young Quebecers with Native cultures.
- 3 University circles, to cultivate open-mindedness among young designers towards different design cultures.
- 4 Native communities, through the design workshops bringing together non-Native designers and Native craftworkers, to facilitate the trading of knowledge exchanges and intercultural encounters by means of common projects.

Participative inventory

"Territorial Memories"

«Mémoires du Territoire» (Territorial Memories) is an experimental component of the «Design et culture matérielle: développement communautaire et cultures autochtones 2003-2008» project.

This valorization-oriented project emphasizes the relationship between Natives and the land, and relies on cultural resources as a means of sustained development. It views tradition as the “live” element around which communities are built and retraces the constructive interrelations between contemporary ways of life and the quest for sustained development. The project began with the constitution of a reflection team – or think-tank – made up of members of the reunited communities of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam. Among them were Rose-Anne Grégoire, Sylvie Jourdain, André Michel, Lauréat Moreau, Donald Pilot, Bernard Saint-Onge, Doris Vollant and Françoise Vollant. The group was headed by Réginald Vollant, research alliance collaborator in cooperation with Élise Dubuc and Hugues de Varine.

Since early 2004, a meetings have taken place in the aim of broadening the reflection, of laying the groundwork for a participative inventory, and of getting a larger number of community members involved. One of the highlights of the project was a visit by Hugues de Varine, one of the collaborators in the project, spring 2004. The principles underlying our methodology were explained. Concrete examples from both Europe and America were used to help everyone get a better comprehension of the value and potential impact of the project for the communities. The think-tank continues to meet regularly. In 2005, different strategies to share the process and results with the community are scheduled: exhibitions; community radio talks; local news paper articles; meetings.



The method used finds its roots in a community valorization process developed by Hugues de Varine. The process, tested in various European and Latin-American communities, revolves around the participation of the community members, whom are considered as the primary actors and users, and is adapted to the specific context of each community as defined by its members. This social mobilization process gave birth to a number of initiatives, ranging from punctual educational projects involving primary and secondary schools to the creation of permanent institutions like school museums, all the way to large-scale community development projects involving administrative and political authorities.

Other projects also arose, such as the reunion of groups of women, or of retired or laid-off workers, the concrete realization of common projects like the creation of community museums, or the reconversion of industrial assets. It should be interesting to see how the process will be adapted by Native communities.

Participants in the «Mémoires du territoire» meetings, from the Uashat mak Mani-utenam community. On the picture (clockwise): André Michel, Doris Vollant, Hugues de Varine, Rodrigue Fontaine, Françoise Vollant, Lauréat Moreau, Rose-Anne Grégoire, Réginald Vollant, Bernard St-Onge and Elise Dubuc.

Photograph by Claude-François Huguet

«Mémoires du territoire» project presented at the music festival «Innu Nikamu» in Uashat mak Mani-utenam, August 2005



Members of the « Mémoires du territoire» project took advantage of the summer meeting of « Innu Nikamu», a famous festival of First Nations music, held yearly in Uashat mak Mani-utenam where lots of people from the Lower North Shore innue communities meet.

Community exhibition showing the results of the first round of participatory inventory to other (compatriotes). Ongoing process of exchange with the community, informing about the evolution of the project and inviting members of the community to join the group.

Recent events



Presentation of the Project in Partner Communities

During of 2004, Élisabeth Kaine, Élise Dubuc and collaborators; *Thérèse Rock-Picard, Réginald Vollant and Hugues de Varine, Bibiane Courtois, Nicole O'Bomsawin, Lauréat Moreau and Sylvie Paré*, partners for each of the participating communities, presented the project to members, organizations and leaders of the Mashteuiatsh, Odanak, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam and Betsiamites communities, and at the First Nations Garden in Montreal. The project was well received by various authorities concerned with cultural and community development. The project was also the subject of articles in the Innuvelle newspaper and the Wendake journal, and of radio interviews in the participating communities.



Creative Workshops in the Mashteuiatsh Community



Beginning of the workshops. Shown on the picture are the seven artisans as well as the facilitators.

The creative workshops began this year in the Mashteuiatsh community with the participation of a group of seven artisans: Denis Blacksmith, Diane Blacksmith, Johanne Blacksmith, Bernard Connolly, Maude Connolly, Allen Grégoire and Mariette Manigouche. The workshops are headed by Élisabeth Kaine and Pierre-André Vézina, with the help of research assistants Cindy Cantin and Sarah-Emmanuelle Brassard, and are taking place in the Mashteuiatsh community and in the surrounding territory. The workshops has culminated in October 2004 with a major exhibition held in the Musée amérindien de Mashteuiatsh. The exhibition will tour in other native communities thougout 2005 and 2006.

«La tradition en Marche: oeuvres de création de l'Alliance des artisans Pekuakamiulnuatsh» ,

Traveling exhibition showing the design products created during the workshop held in Mashteuiatsh.

Openings in the three partners communities:

Fall, winter, spring



Musée Amérindiens de Mashteuiatsh, fall 2004



Maison de la transmission de la culture innue, Shaputuan, Uashat mak Mani-utenam winter 2005



Musée des Abénakis, Odanak, spring 2005



Creative Workshops in the Uashat mak Mani-utenam Community



First meetings: developing individual creativity and connecting with traditional expression, creating personal logo

The group of eleven craftwokers in Uashat mak Mani-utenam:

Pascal André
Jeanne-Mance Ambroise
Lucienne Ambroise
Paul Blacksmith
Laurette Grégoire
Caroline Michel
Camillienne Pinette
Louisa Rock
Anouk St-Onge
Pauline St-Onge
Estelle Vachon



Mid-term exhibition of the craftworkers to their friends and family, in the Chapel of the Interpretation center of the Old Trading Post, Ville de Sept-Iles , Summer 2005



Exhibition at the First Nation Garden of the Botanical Garden, Ville de Montréal:

"Génie du design autochtone : présence de la communauté ilnue de Mashteuiatsh" (Native Design Ingenuity: Presence of the Mashteuiatsh Ilnu Community), summer 2004.

"Innu utinniun" , summer 2005

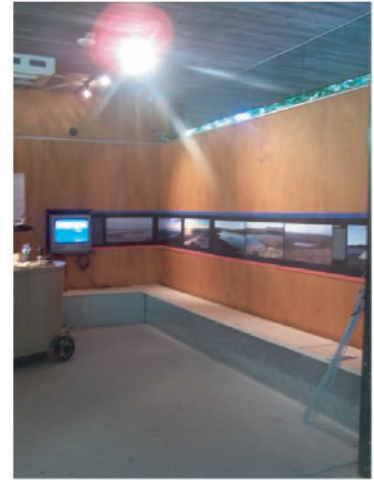
Thanks to the enthusiasm of the people in charge of the First Nations Garden and the mobilization of the participants, it was possible to hold a small exhibition highlighting the creative workshop during the first year of *"Mémoire du territoire"*.



"Génie du design autochtone",
First Nations Garden, summer 2004



Exposition "Innu utinniun," First Nations Garden, summer 2005



Enhancing intercultural relations

Touring exhibitions in non native communities



Exhibition «Génie du design autochtone: présence de la communauté ilnue de Mashteuiatsh» presented at the popular folk festival «Mémoires et Racines», near Joliette, in Lanaudière, Quebec, July 2005.

L'acfas

Sharing communities-universities

Innovations durables et communautés autochtones. Le rôle de la créativité dans l'initiative locale : vers une meilleure compréhension des mécanismes qui lient Culture et Mieux Être, Colloquium organized by the CURA project Alliance at the 73e International Congress of ACFAS, in the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, mai 2005.



Bibiane Courtois and Élise Dubuc presenting «Significant objects repatriation in First Nations community museums»



Official university recognition for the craftworkers of Mashteuiatsh of successfully completion of 350 hours of in deep design training program giving Centre des études amérindiennes and the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi.

First annual meeting of the Alliance partners, October 2004

Every year the communities-universities partners of the Alliance project meet at one partner's place to share experiences and make evaluation. Public events are held during this week. In 2004, the members of the community were invited at 2 evenings at the Musée amérindien de Mashteuiatsh discussing «Family heritage» and «Repatriation» and a workshop about the conservation of public monumental art.



Mister Gérald Siméon, one of the elders of the community, share his expertise on food and containers conservation.



Miriam Clavir, conservator specialized in the preservation of First Nations heritage, share her experience with the members of the Mashteuiatsh community.

Journée d'étude organized university research assistants February 2005



Élisabeth Kaine, Jacques Kurtness and Francine Belle-Isle discussing on the relation between cultural creativity and Individual and community health.

Book Launch



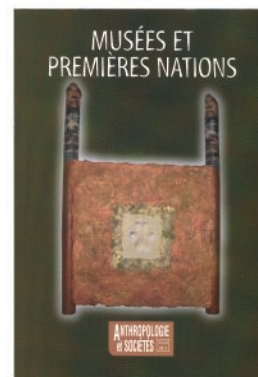
Launch of the “Métissage” reasoned catalog by Élisabeth Kaine, 2004
Design professor at the UQAC since 1989.

This document retraces the origins and researches-actions carried out as part of the *Design et culture matérielle* project headed by the author since 1992. Written like an artist's book, it is comprised of essays and accounts of the researches and exhibitions. The whole, abundantly illustrated, constitutes a manifesto for the preservation and valorization of Native culture.

Published by La Boîte Rouge vif, L'Oeuvre de l'Autre gallery and Caféine Design

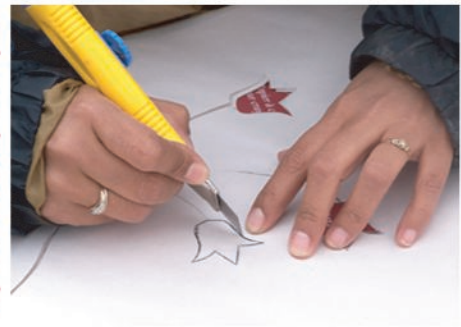
Co-directed by Élise Dubuc, this document focuses mainly on the representation and self-representation of American Indians in museums, and also deals with the repatriation of significative objects, with the use of new technologies, with the role played by creativity in Inuit museums, and with a certain cooperative museological movement coming from the West.

Presentation of the
“Musées de Premières Nations”
(First Nation Museum) thematic issue of the
Anthropologie et Société journal, 2004, Volume 28, Number 2.





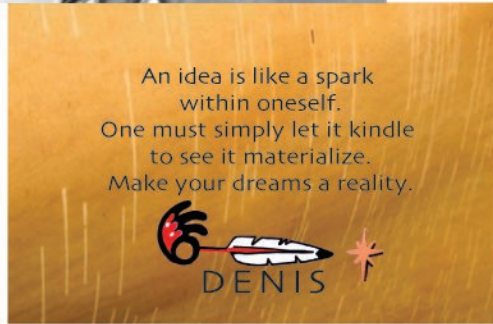
Blacksmith



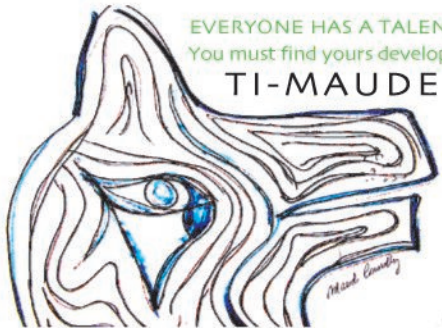
Let us transmit our pride and our values.

LIANE

Blacksmith



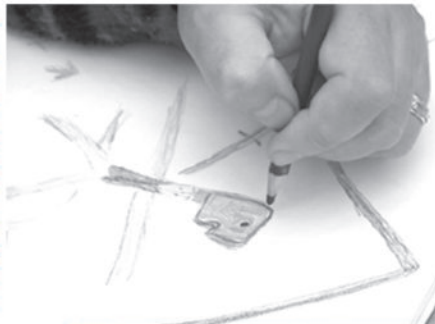
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EVERYONE HAS A TALENT. You must find yours develop it.

TI-MAUDE

CONNOLLY



CONNOLLY



Anishkutapan mushumuatsh

What the ancestor passed on to me

Cover page illustrations; pages from the Zine | produced with the artisans

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